an>

Title: Need to undertake the flood control measures to minimize the damage caused by river Brahmaputra in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Sir, a ttention of Government is drawn towards urgency of a central plan to tame the river Brahmaputra which presently flows in a multi-channel 15 Km width causing large scale devastation and loss of prime land. Till now, more than 50,000 families have lost their habitat permanently who are dwelling in temporary shelter on road and embankments. Looking at the worst affected vulnerable erosion point starting from Jonai, Sis, Tekeliphuta, Matmora, Majuli, in north bank and Dhola, Hatighuli, Rohmoria, Agatguri in the South Bank in upper Assam entire Brahmaputra right from Sadia to Dhubri needs to be restricted to the original single channel by erecting permanent bank stabilization measures and dredging. Otherwise more that 30 per cent of the prime habitable and cultivable land of Assam will be lost to the river system resulting in irreparable damage and severe social economic problems. In this connection, the pilot project "Stabilization of Brahmaputra" prepared by Brahmaputra Board needs urgent consideration, which could be implemented to restrict the channel width starting from Bogibeel bridge construction site where a four km channel width will be maintained by Railways. Similarly Government should draw a central rehabilitation plan for these affected families in the pattern of Tsunami affected areas. They are on the other hand are required to pay land revenue to the Government despite their lands in the riverbed for decades.

A long-term joint strategy to control Brahmaputra with the participation of the Ministries of Water Resources, Shipping, Development of North Eastern Region and Planning Commission is, therefore, demanded for a permanent solution.

14.15 hrs.